

Introduced by Senator Galgiani

August 23, 2016

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 166—Relative to Silver Alert Community Education Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 166, as introduced, Galgiani. Silver Alert Community Education Month.

This measure would proclaim the month of September 2016 as Silver Alert Community Education Month.

Fiscal committee: yes.

1 WHEREAS, The Silver Alert was signed into California law in
2 2012 to help in the recovery of missing persons who are 65 years
3 of age and older; and

4 WHEREAS, The Silver Alert is a quick response system
5 designed to issue and coordinate alerts following the unexplained
6 or suspicious disappearance of an elderly person with the goal of
7 providing immediate information to the public about the missing
8 person, including images or descriptions and the time and location
9 last seen to speed the process to locate the person and return him
10 or her to safety; and

11 WHEREAS, The Silver Alert was recently amended to include
12 those persons who have a developmental or mental disability or
13 cognitive impairment; and

14 WHEREAS, There are more than 250,000 people living with
15 developmental disabilities in California and roughly 1 in 20 adults
16 suffer from a severe mental illness; many of these individuals are
17 at great risk of wandering at some point in their lives; and

1 WHEREAS, There have been efforts to educate and train those
2 in law enforcement who come into contact with these individuals
3 on how to interact and deescalate a situation with the least amount
4 of force, most recently with the passing of SB 29 and SB 11 in
5 2015; and

6 WHEREAS, There is a growing need to educate people in
7 communities on the Silver Alert and on how it will help in the safe
8 return of their loved ones, and how to interact with the individuals
9 should they come into contact with them; and

10 WHEREAS, If more people in the community were aware of
11 the Silver Alert, it would increase the chances that a missing
12 individual would be safely located; now, therefore, be it

13 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
14 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature hereby proclaims the
15 month of September 2016 as Silver Alert Community Education
16 Month, and urges all state departments and agencies and law
17 enforcement agencies to work together to promote greater
18 awareness of the Silver Alert system and to educate communities
19 on how they can help in the safe return of a missing individual;
20 and be it further

21 *Resolved*, That the Legislature also urges all local law
22 enforcement agencies to adopt systems like San Diego's
23 "AlertSanDiego" system, which notifies the public via email and
24 text message when a person with dementia or other cognitive
25 impairment, or with a developmental disability, goes missing in
26 the region; and be it further

27 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
28 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.